

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for producing a chewing gum with a
5 controlled release of an antimicrobial agent, as well as
the chewing gum so produced, is obtained by physically
modifying the release properties of the antimicrobial
agent by coating and drying. The antimicrobial agent is
coated by encapsulation, partially coated by
10 agglomeration, entrapped by absorption, or treated by
multiple steps of encapsulation, agglomeration, and
absorption. The coated antimicrobial agent is preferably
then co-dried and particle sized to produce a release-
modified antimicrobial agent for use in chewing gum.
15 When incorporated into the chewing gum, these particles
are adapted to produce a fast release or a delayed
release when the gum is chewed. The preferred
antimicrobial agent is chlorhexidine digluconate.